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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/714,750	11/17/2003	John A. Darringer	YOR920030418US1	3379

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EXAMINER

DINH, PAUL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2825

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/714,750

Applicant(s)

DARRINGER ET AL.

Examiner

Paul Dinh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This is a response to the election filed on 12/30/05.

Claims 1-24 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 is rejected because "the existence" lacks antecedent basis. Claims 2-24 are rejected because they depend from claim 1.

Claim 16 is rejected because "said at least one assertion" lacks antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) The invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 12-14, 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the prior art of record Taylor et al (US pub. 2004/0230934).

(Claim 1) first computer program code that enables a user to specify the existence of uncertainty in a least one circuit (para 0013, 0020, 0025); and

second computer program code that automatically implements the specified uncertainty as at least one programmable circuit (para 0013, 0020, 0025).

(Claims 2, 20) further comprising third computer program code that optimizes an implementation of the at least one programmable circuit in view of at least one predetermined performance constraint (para 0034), where said at least one performance constraint comprises circuit timing imposed by clock signal constraints (para 0034).

(Claim 3) where said first computer program code implements an Uncertain Function that is used in place of a logic function or operator (para 0013, 0020).

(Claim 12) where said first computer program code implements an Uncertain Register as a register having a programmable size within a specified range (para 0006, 0011, 0020, 0022, 0029, 0032).

(Claims 13-14) where said IC is implemented at least in part as a hardwired ASIC and where said at least one programmable circuit is implemented as a FPGA (one or more of: para 0002-0008, 0012-0013, 0020, 0027, 0031, 0035, 0037); where said IC is implemented at least in part as a hardwired ASIC, and where said at least one programmable circuit is implemented as an ASIC in combination with a programmable memory component that provides at least one control input to said programmable circuit (one or more of: para 0002-0008, 0012-0013, 0020, 0027, 0031, 0035, 0037).

(Claim 16) where said at least one assertion comprises at least one of Input, Output and Input/Output assertions that introduce constraints that reduce the complexity of a final circuit implementation, and Dependency assertions that eliminate inputs from selected outputs (fig 2-3, para 0034).

(Claims 17-18) where said third computer program code operates to map a circuit network obtained by operation of said first and second program code to at least one specific logic technology (one or more of: para 0002-0008, 0012-0013, 0020, 0027, 0031, 0035, 0037); where said IC is implemented at least in part as a hardwired ASIC, and where said at least one programmable circuit is implemented FPGA, and where said third computer program code operates to map FPGA components to an FPGA section of the IC and to map ASIC components to an ASIC section of the IC (one or more of: para 0002-0008, 0012-0013, 0020, 0027, 0031, 0035, 0037).

(Claim 19) where said third computer program code selects a specific technology for implementing the at least one programmable circuit (one or more of: para 0002-0008, 0012-

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0013, 0020, 0027, 0031, 0035, 0037) in view of the at least one performance constraint (para 0034).

(Claim 21) where optimizing comprises a consideration of required circuit area versus operational performance (fig 1)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a), which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections, set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor et al (US pub. 2004/0230934) in view of one or more of: Huang (USP 6618841) and Wohl (Usp 6148436).

Taylor discloses all the elements in claims except the limitations in claims 4-11.

Huang discloses the limitations in claims 4-11: where said Uncertain Function comprises an at least partly unspecified Boolean logic function with multiple inputs and multiple outputs (col 7 lines 10-41); where said Uncertain Function comprises a selectable Boolean logic function having an input used to select one of a plurality of fully specified logic functions (col 7 lines 10-41); where said Uncertain Function comprises a Boolean logic function having a set of input parameters used to determine a specific logic function to be implemented (col 7 lines 10-41); wherein an Uncertain Function Assertion for imposing at least one constraint on the Uncertain Function (col 2 line 23+, col 5 lines 11-29, col 7 line 10+, also Taylor para 0034), where said Uncertain Function Assertion comprises at least one of an Input Assertion that uses a Boolean expression to specify a constraint on an input value and an Output Assertion That uses a Boolean expression to specify a constraint on an output value (col 7 lines 10-41), where said Uncertain Function Assertion comprises an Input/Output Assertion that uses a Boolean expression to specify a constraint on a relation between input and output values (col 7 lines 10-41), where said Uncertain Function Assertion comprises a Dependency Assertion for defining which inputs determine which outputs (col 2 line 23+, col 5 lines 11-29, col 7 line

10+); implementing an Uncertain Constant having a predetermined number of bits (col 10 line 31+) .

Wohl discloses the limitations in claims 4-10: where said Uncertain Function comprises an at least partly unspecified Boolean logic function with multiple inputs and multiple outputs (col 9 line 38+, col 14 line 26+); where said Uncertain Function comprises a selectable Boolean logic function having an input used to select one of a plurality of fully specified logic functions (col 9 line 38+, col 14 line 26+); where said Uncertain Function comprises a Boolean logic function having a set of input parameters used to determine a specific logic function to be implemented (col 9 line 38+, col 14 line 26+); wherein an Uncertain Function Assertion for imposing at least one constraint on the Uncertain Function (col 9 line 38+, col 14 line 26+, also Taylor para 0034), where said Uncertain Function Assertion comprises at least one of an Input Assertion that uses a Boolean expression to specify a constraint on an input value and an Output Assertion that uses a Boolean expression to specify a constraint on an output value (col 9 line 38+, col 14 line 26+), where said Uncertain Function Assertion comprises an Input/Output Assertion that uses a Boolean expression to specify a constraint on a relation between input and output values (col 9 line 38+, col 14 line 26+), where said Uncertain Function Assertion comprises a Dependency Assertion for defining which inputs determine which outputs (col 9 line 38+, col 14 line 26+).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use Boolean expression/logic function because Boolean expression/logic function is well known in art of logic design/test/verification and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement an Uncertain Constant having a predetermined number of bits to adhere to the non-assignable/uncertainty signal propagation logic.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 15, 22-24 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Claims 15, 22-24 would be allowable because the prior art does not teach or suggest the limitations in claim 15, claim 22 and claim 24.

Conclusion

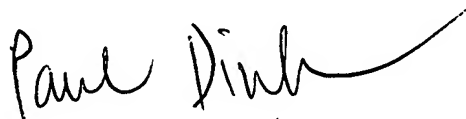
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-1890. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, Jack Chiang can be reached on 571-272-7483. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Paul Dinh

Primary Examiner

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Dinh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.